

He has put his education to work for the citizens of east Texas as a professor of management, business and economics at his beloved Trinity Valley Community College. Today he serves there as Dean of Occupational Instruction; and thanks to his work, young people from all over east Texas have been enlightened about business and economics, and thusly they have been empowered. They have been empowered by a great teacher that they respect and admire to go out and create the next generation of inventory software, to help found the next community bank next door.

As the Congressman for the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, I am pleased today to recognize my good friend Jerry King for his many years of public service as mayor and for the outstanding contributions he has made to the city of Athens. I also want to thank his wonderful and patient wife, Dosha, for the sacrifice she too has made on behalf of the people of Athens.

Although he is stepping down as mayor, Jerry King has truly made his community and country a better place. I know he will continue to do so, be it as public servant, leader, volunteer, or educator.

Mr. Speaker, the greatest compliment I can pay my friend Jerry King tonight is that when I think about my 19-month-old son, Travis, I can be proud if one day he would grow up to be just like Mayor Jerry King of Athens, Texas.

NO TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last week more than 150 Republicans and Democrats, Senators and House Members, business groups and labor organizations gathered on Capitol Hill to speak out against the Central American Free Trade Agreement. This group of unlikely bedfellows, if you will, spoke with one voice to deliver a unified message, no to CAFTA.

CAFTA, the Central American Free Trade Agreement, expands the failed trade policies of the North American Free Trade Agreement to Central America. When I ran for Congress in 1992, the United States had a \$38 billion trade deficit. Last year, a dozen years later, the United States had a \$618 billion trade deficit: from \$38 billion to \$618 billion trade deficit.

The more you look at the face of CAFTA, the better you can see who will benefit and who will pay the price if Congress passes one more trade agreement. Trade pacts like NAFTA and CAFTA enable companies to go overseas, exploit cheap labor in the developing world, and then import their products back into the United States. That is why we have a \$618 billion trade deficit.

The Central American Free Trade Agreement should actually be called the Central American Free Labor Agreement.

Now, we know in the United States our economy over the last several decades has been a tremendous success because workers share in the wealth they create. If you work for General Motors, if you work for a hardware store, you help your employer by your labor make money, and your employer in turn allows you to share in the wealth you create. That is why the American economy is such a success story.

But throughout the developing world, workers simply do not share in the wealth they create. Workers in Costa Rica cannot afford to buy the toys they make for Disney for their children. Workers in Vietnam at a Nike plant cannot afford to buy the shoes they make. Motorola workers in Malaysia cannot afford to buy the cell phones they make. Ford and GM workers in Mexico cannot afford to buy the cars they manufacture.

The Central American Free Labor Agreement is about access to cheap labor. The numbers do not lie. The combined purchasing power of the CAFTA nations, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, the combined purchasing power of those six countries is equal to that of Columbus, Ohio, or Orlando, Florida, or Memphis, Tennessee, or the entire State of Kansas.

CAFTA supporters attempt to argue that this trade agreement will open markets for U.S. exports. They paint a picture of American workers manufacturing products for this hugely growing consumer market in Central America. But the math does not lie. The average salary of a Nicaraguan worker is \$2,300 a year, \$191 a month. Nicaraguan workers cannot afford to buy a car made in Ohio. They cannot afford to buy shoes made in Maine. They cannot afford to buy textiles or apparel made in North Carolina or Georgia. They cannot afford to buy software made in Seattle in the district of the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

The fact is, I ask CAFTA supporters, what American-made product can a Central American worker purchase who is earning less than \$200 a month? CAFTA supporters will not answer these questions. They cannot.

The truth is that CAFTA is not about selling them American products. CAFTA is about exploiting foreign workers, about taking American jobs to Central America. It is about exploiting those foreign workers, and it means fewer jobs here.

NAFTA promised job growth in the U.S. and a thriving middle class in Mexico; but 10 years later our Nation has lost 1 million jobs, and Mexican workers' wages have remained stagnant.

CAFTA, the dysfunctional cousin of NAFTA, is more of the same: another trade agreement that ships jobs overseas, another trade agreement that ne-

glects the essential environmental standards, another trade agreement that weakens food safety standards in both countries, another trade agreement that keeps foreign workers in poverty.

The definition of madness, Mr. Speaker, is repeating the same action over and over again and expecting a different result. That is what happened: 12 years of trade agreements, 12 years of promises, 12 years of failed trade policy. Yet the insanity of it is we keep doing the same thing. We keep passing more trade agreements.

CAFTA simply does not make sense. The President signed CAFTA almost 1 year ago. Since 2001, typically when the President signs an agreement, we vote on it within 60 days. This week, on Thursday, will be the 11-month anniversary of the signing of CAFTA. House leaders said they are going to vote on it by the end of May.

Mr. Speaker, I would close by saying when the world's poorest workers can buy American products, rather than make them, then we will know that our trade policies are finally succeeding. CAFTA will not. Vote "no" on CAFTA.

IN SUPPORT OF LT. ILARIO PANTANO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today is the Article 32 hearing for Second Lieutenant Ilario Pantano, a Marine who I have talked about at great length and who has served our Nation bravely in both gulf wars.

In an action of self-defense a year ago in Iraq, Lt. Pantano made a split-second, battlefield decision to shoot two Iraqi insurgents who refused to follow his orders to stop their movement towards him. Two-and-a-half months later, a sergeant under his command who never even saw the shooting and who was earlier demoted for his lack of leadership abilities, accused him of murder. Because of that, Lt. Pantano today faces an Article 32 hearing where a hearing officer will determine whether he will face a court marshal for two counts of premeditated murder.

Mr. Speaker, what is happening to this young man is unfair and an injustice. Lt. Pantano has served this Nation with great honor. My personal experiences with him and his family convince me that he is a dedicated family man who loves his corps and his country.

Mona Charen, a well-known journalist, puts it best when she writes: "Pantano was in the middle of a war zone, not a vacation on the Riviera. He had been dodging ambushes and booby traps for weeks. He had seen his comrades killed and maimed. Perhaps he acted too hastily in shooting those Iraqis. But a murder charge? Has the